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VIENNA ALSO FOR BOSNIA
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SUBJECT: TFSROL: SEVERE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN B-H:
EYEWITNESS DETAILS MURDER, BEATINGS IN LUKA AND
BATKOVIC

REF: (A) ZAGREB 827; (B) ZAGREB 872; (C) ZAGREB 919;
(D) ZAGREB 930; (E) ZAGREB 941

1. (U) SUMMARY: THIS IS ONE OF A SERIES OF REPORTS OF
INTERVIEWS (REFTELS) WITH WAR CRIMES VICTIMS CONDUCTED IN
LATE 1993 IN MAOCA, BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA, BY A DART/ZAGREB
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PAGE 03 ZAGREB 00945 01 OF 03 081147Z
FIELD REP AND AN AMCIT IRC REP WHILE THEY WERE IN THE
AREA ASSESSING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS. THIS REPORT NAMES
VICTIMS AND, IN SOME CASES, PERPETRATORS AND DETAILS OF
SPECIFIC CRIMES. END SUMMARY.

THE WITNESS

2. (LOU) AMIR DIDIC (STRICTLY PROTECT), HEREAFTER
REFERRED TO AS THE WITNESS, IS A BOSNIAN MUSLIM FROM
POLANKA, A VILLAGE SOUTHWEST OF BRCKO. HE WAS BORN MAY
1, 1967. HE WAS A CIVILIAN AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST BY
BOSNIAN SERB FORCES ON MAY 19, 1992.

THE WITNESS'S ACCOUNT

3. (U) AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST, THE WITNESS WAS DRIVING
WITH HIS AUNT AND A FRIEND. HE AND HIS FRIEND WERE TAKEN
TO THE POLICE STATION IN BRCKO, WHERE THEY WAITED ONE
HOUR BEFORE BEING TAKEN WITH 15 OTHER MEN TO A WAREHOUSE
COMPLEX KNOWN AS LUKA WHICH WAS BEING USED AS A PRISON
CAMP. WHEN THEY ARRIVED, THEY WERE PUT IN A WAREHOUSE
WITH 100-150 OTHER PRISONERS WHO WERE SINGING "CETNIK"
SONGS. THEY WERE SEARCHED, AND THEIR VALUABLES WERE
TAKEN. THEY WERE TAKEN ONE BY ONE FOR INTERROGATION BY
POLICE INSPECTORS. THIS INITIAL INTERROGATION WAS
RELATIVELY NORMAL. BECAUSE WITNESS WAS FROM THE FREE
TERRITORY, HE WAS ASKED ABOUT THE ARMY OF
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PAGE 04 ZAGREB 00945 01 OF 03 081147Z
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA. AFTERWARDS, HE WAS RETURNED TO THE
WAREHOUSE.

4. (U) AFTER ALL 15 MEN HAD BEEN QUESTIONED, BOSNIAN
SERBS CAME INTO THE WAREHOUSE AND BEGAN BEATING THEM.
THESE (SERBS) INCLUDED GORAN JELISIC FROM BIJELJINA,
MONIKA (LNU) FROM BRCKO, RANKO (LNU) FROM BRCKO, IVAN
(LNU) FROM BIJELJINA, AND SEVERAL OTHERS FROM BIJELJINA.
ACCORDING TO THE WITNESS, THE FOUR NAMED ABOVE DID MOST
OF THE KILLING IN LUKA. HE DESCRIBED RANKO AS TALL AND
MUSCULAR, WITH BLACK HAIR; AND MONIKA AS 18 OR 19 YEARS
OLD, SHORT, NICE-LOOKING, WITH BLACK SHOULDER-LENGTH
HAIR. (NOTE: THE BRCKO MUNICIPALITY WAR CRIMES

COMMISSION IN MAOCA HAS PHOTOS OF MONIKA AND INFORMATION THAT SHE OPENED A BOUTIQUE CALLED "MONIKA" IN BIJELJINA AFTER MARRYING GORAN JELISIC. END NOTE.)

15. (U) AFTER BEATING THE PRISONERS FOR ABOUT AN HOUR, THE SERBS LEFT THE WAREHOUSE. BY THEN IT WAS GETTING

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PAGE 01 ZAGREB 00945 02 OF 03 081147Z
ACTION SS-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DOEE-00
	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-16	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	RPCS-01	SB-00	SCT-03
	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00
	RPE-01	SNIS-00	NISC-02	PMB-00	/049W		

-----2D402C 081155Z /38

P 081138Z MAR 94
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1120
INFO USEC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USIA WASHDC 4323
HQ JTF PP NAPLES IT//CA/POLAD//
USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ3/ECJ4/ECJ5/ECPOLAD//
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//DO/LG/XP/IN/POLAD//
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE//J3/J4/J5/POLAD//
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK//N2/N22//
COM SIXTHFLT//N2//
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5-PMA/J2I//
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PAGE 02 ZAGREB 00945 02 OF 03 081147Z
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DARK. THEN PRISONERS WERE CALLED OUT OF THE WAREHOUSE ONE BY ONE AND BEATEN. THE WITNESS AND ANOTHER PRISONER NAMED ANDRIJA TUFEKCIC WERE THE MOST BADLY BEATEN, BUT THE WITNESS DID NOT KNOW WHY. THEY WERE BEATEN WITH BOTTLES AND A FIRE HOSE NOZZLE. SUCH BEATINGS CONTINUED FOR 10 DAYS. THE WITNESS SHOWED SCARS ON HIS HEAD HE

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PAGE 03 ZAGREB 00945 02 OF 03 081147Z

SAID WERE CAUSED BY THESE BEATINGS.

16. (U) THE WITNESS SPENT TWO MONTHS AT LUKA, WHERE BEATINGS WERE A DAILY OCCURRENCE. HE SAID THAT IF A PRISONER HAD TO GO TO THE TOILET, HE WOULD ALWAYS RETURN BLOODY. MONIKA, IN ONE CASE, POURED HYDROCHLORIC ACID ON ANDRIJA TUFEKCIC. MONIKA, HE SAID, WAS ALSO KNOWN TO CASTRATE PRISONERS, SOMETIMES WITH BROKEN BOTTLES. SOME PRISONERS WERE KILLED EVERY NIGHT, OFTEN BY SOLDIERS RETURNING FROM THE FRONT. ON JULY 8 OR 9, ALL THOSE HELD PRISONER IN THE WITNESS'S WAREHOUSE WERE TRANSFERRED ON 10 BUSES TO BATKOVIC PRISON CAMP.

17. (U) AT BATKOVIC, THE WITNESS SAID, GLIGOR (LNU) WAS ABSOLUTELY THE CRUELEST GUARD. A FELLOW PRISONER CALLED SPAJZER ALSO ADMINISTERED SOME OF THE WORST BEATINGS. THE CAMP COMMANDER WAS NAMED VELJO.

18. (U) WHEN THE WITNESS ARRIVED AT BATKOVIC THERE WERE ALREADY AT LEAST 600 PRISONERS THERE. (NOTE: THE WITNESS SAID THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PRISONERS DURING HIS TIME AT BATKOVIC WAS ABOUT 1700. END NOTE.) UPON DISEMBARKING FROM THE BUSES, THE PRISONERS HAD TO ENTER THE CAMP BETWEEN TWO ROWS OF "CETNIKS" WITH CLUBS, WHO BEAT THEM. IN THE WAREHOUSE, THE EARLIER ARRIVALS WERE LYING FACE DOWN, THEIR HANDS BEHIND THEIR HEADS AND THEIR HEADS SHAVED. ALL OF THEM WERE MEN EXCEPT FOR A WOMAN NAMED SENA FROM BRCKO, WHO HAD INSISTED ON ACCOMPANYING HER HUSBAND, A ONE-LEGGED MAN WHO HAD BEEN TORTURED.

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PAGE 04 ZAGREB 00945 02 OF 03 081147Z

19. (U) SOME PRISONERS DIED FROM THE DAILY BEATINGS IN THE CAMP. OFTEN, SOLDIERS RETURNING FROM THE FRONT WOULD BE BROUGHT IN TO BEAT THE PRISONERS. CERTAIN PEOPLE WERE SINGLED OUT FOR THE WORST BEATINGS, INCLUDING A SOLDIER NAMED NEDIM. FOOD WAS VERY BAD, WITH ONLY ONE KILO OF BREAD FOR 15 PERSONS, AND A FEW SPOONFULS OF THIN CABBAGE SOUP. THERE WAS NO MEDICAL CARE, AND SOME OF THE OLD AND SICK DIED AS A RESULT. THE OLDEST MAN THE WITNESS KNEW IN THE CAMP WAS BORN IN 1911. ON THE HOTTEST DAYS, PRISONERS WERE LOCKED UP IN THE WAREHOUSES, WHERE THE HEAT WAS UNBEARABLE; TWO OR THREE PRISONERS WITH HEART PROBLEMS DIED AS A RESULT.

10. (U) EVERYTHING CHANGED WHEN ICRC FIRST VISITED THE CAMP IN AUGUST 1992. WHEN THE FIRST VISIT WAS ANNOUNCED, 100-150 PRISONERS WERE HIDDEN. THESE INCLUDED THE 13 MOST BADLY BEATEN AND THE VERY YOUNG AND VERY OLD. THREE OF THE BADLY BEATEN MEN WERE ANDRIJA TUFEKCIC AND DVEVAD KAMBERI, BOTH FROM BRCKO; AND ELJUB SMAJIC FROM

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BIJELJINA. THE 13 WERE LATER TRANSFERRED, BUT HE DID NOT
KNOW WHERE.

11. THE WITNESS WAS RELEASED IN A PRISONER EXCHANGE ON
OCTOBER 5, 1992. WHEN HE LEFT, THERE WERE STILL ABOUT
300 PRISONERS AT BATKOVIC.

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